

1. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)?					X
2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare, or endangered species of animals?					X
3. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?					X
4. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat?					X

Explanation:

1.) A spill at the wharf, or from a vessel transiting to or from the facility could impact any population resident in the area or migrating through Carquinez Strait or Suisun Bay. Without further biologic surveys, it is impossible to determine precisely which species would be impacted. If the lease is renewed, populations will remain at the present level of risk.

2.) Several unique, rare or endangered species are known to be resident in the area or to use the project area as a migration pathway. Without further inventories and analyses, it is impossible to determine precisely which species would be impacted in the event of an accident. If the lease is renewed, these special species will remain at the present level of risk.

3.) Several exotic species have already been introduced into the Bay area from ship ballast water. If the lease is renewed, the risk that more species will be introduced will continue.

4.) If the lease is renewed there will remain a potentially significant risk of damage to important habitats from accidents at the wharf or from vessels in transit.

Discussion: The aquatic life impacted by the project can be broken down into plankton, benthic, and fish and free-swimming invertebrates. The comments on plankton in the preceding section, Plant Life, apply here as well, with the detrimental impacts of introduced exotic species being well documented (Chambers, 1994).

With the exception of limited areas of natural rocky shores and man-made rip-rap, most of the substrate throughout the San Francisco Bay Estuary consists of soft bottom (Chambers, 1994).